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www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov



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Creating a Culture of Preparedness

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (KOHS) has partnered with the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) and the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to work with a wide variety of organizations, including local, regional, state and federal government agencies and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness and to promote individual involvement through events and activities across the Commonwealth. During September, the Commonwealth's Preparedness Month Coalition will urge all Kentuckians to take some simple steps to make their families better prepared for emergencies. These steps include:

Make a Plan - Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency. Your plan should include a communications plan and address sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Go to www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov for more information and templates to help get you started.

Get a Kit - Get a kit of emergency supplies that will provide for you and your family for at least three days in the event an emergency occurs. The kit should include basic items like water, food, extra medications, a battery-powered radio, flashlight and a first aid kit. Go to www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov for a complete list of recommended supplies.

Get Involved - After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get training in first aid and emergency response and get involved in preparing your community. Citizen Corps provides residents with opportunities to prepare, train and support local emergency responders. For more information or to get involved visit www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov to find your regional Citizen Corps council.

Highlights of National Activities

National Preparedness Month (NPM)

For the third straight year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will sponsor National Preparedness Month, along with a coalition of more than 200 national, regional, state and local organizations. National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. This year's goals are to increase public awareness about the importance of family emergency preparedness and to urge individuals to make themselves and their loved ones better prepared.

Throughout the summer and fall, Homeland Security will work with the National Preparedness Month 2006 Coalition – national, regional, state and local organizations from the public and private sector - to highlight the importance of family emergency preparedness. Hundreds of organizations are expected to join the Coalition and provide Americans with a variety of opportunities to learn more about preparedness.

National Preparedness Month provides Americans with information about preparing themselves, their families and their communities for emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist threats. Activities across the nation encourage individuals to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about the different threats that may affect them.

National Preparedness Coalition membership is open to all public and private sector organizations. Groups can register to become a National Preparedness Month Coalition member by visiting www.ready.gov and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner. As a Coalition Member, you will receive a comprehensive toolkit, complete with information on how to plan for National Preparedness Month in your area. It includes suggested activities, useful preparedness information, web banner ads, as well as instructions on using the NPM calendar and downloading Citizen Corps brochures and logos.

It is encouraged to have all National Preparedness registered. To do so, please go to our web site at <http://www.citizencorps.gov> and click on the link "register a new event." Simply fill out the information in the fields as completely as possible and submit your event for approval!

Highlights of State Activities

2006 National Preparedness Month Activities

Date	Event	Location	Time
9/1/06	National Preparedness Month Kick Off	TBD	TBD
9/7/06-9/8/06	Neighborhood Watch Train the Trainer	Bowling Green Police Department	8:30 am-4:00 pm
9/11/06	Interoperability/Preparedness Press Conference	Center for Rural Development Somerset	TBD
9/11/06	KOIN Workshop*	Bowling Green	1:30-4:30 pm
9/12/06	KOIN Workshop*	Lexington	9:00-11:30 am
9/12/06	KOIN Workshop*	Louisville	2:30-5:00 pm
9/13/06	KOIN Workshop*	Hazard	1:30-4:00 pm
9/14/06	Citizen Awareness and Outreach Conference	KY Transportation Cabinet, Frankfort	9:00 am-4:00pm
9/18/06	Business Preparedness Summit	Center for Rural Development, Somerset	9:00 am-4:00 pm

Each week in the month of September will have a different focus.

Week 1 Focus on Family Preparedness

Week 2 Focus on Vulnerable Population

Week 3 Focus on Business Preparedness

Week 4 Focus on Kids

*Kentucky Outreach and Information Network (KOIN)

Established in 2004, KOIN is a growing grassroots network of resource people who serve as conduits of information in emergencies. These individuals have the trust of different populations, which are normally harder to reach through mainstream media or normal communications. The goal of the KOIN is to ensure that in the event of a public health emergency, communication channels are in place and KOIN members understand their role in notifying individuals through appropriate channels. This network can also be utilized to protect the health of day-to-day situations such as immunization clinics, diabetes education/screening or flu shot distribution. For more information, contact Barbara Fox at Barbaraj.fox@ky.gov.

Highlights of Regional Activities

National Night Out

This year marks the 23rd annual National Night Out. National Night Out (NNO) brings together citizens, police and fire personnel, neighborhood organizations, local officials, civic groups and businesses to promote community partnerships that create safe and vibrant neighborhoods.

"National Night Out's efforts to create safe and prepared communities go hand in hand with the mission of our "Avoid the Panic Button: Protect Your Family" campaign, to educate and empower Kentucky's families to prepare for and respond to emergencies. We want to continue to encourage all citizens of the Commonwealth to visit www.ProtectYourFamily.ky.gov to get the most up to date information about family preparedness," said (Ret.) Major Alecia Webb-Edgington.

"These events that highlight neighborhood cooperation can result in lasting change, including but certainly not limited to a reduction in crime," advised Kentucky State Police Commissioner Jack Adams. "The more proactive steps citizens can take in their communities will undoubtedly make the commonwealth a safer place to live."

Bob Douglas, Executive Director of the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition, added, "National Night Out serves as a reminder of the importance of neighbors watching out for neighbors. Your neighbor is your first line of prevention in your community".

This year several communities participated in NNO. Among those communities were: Ashland, Auburn, Bellefonte, Bowling Green, Butler, Calvert City, Campbellsville, Carpentersville, Clarkson, Eddyville, Edgewood, Edmonton, Elizabethtown, Erlanger, Fort Campbell, Fort Wright, Frankfort, Georgetown, Glasgow, Highland Heights, Hodgenville, Lawrence Co., Letcher Co., Louisa, Menifee Co., New Haven, Newport, Nicholas Co., Nicholasville, Owensboro, Pendleton Co., Perry Co., Pikeville, Radcliff, Russellville, Villa Hills, and Warsaw.

Regional Preparedness Month Activities

On September 30, FIVCO Regional Citizen Corps Council will host *Responsible Pet Day*. Preparedness booths will be set up to distribute preparedness information for individuals, families, and pets. A local low-cost neuter clinic will be on site as well as demonstrations of pet first aid and sign ups for future classes will be available. Several contests have been planned including weenie dog races, pet costume class and best dog class.

Best Practices

We are currently looking for best practices to share across the Commonwealth.

Please email your best practices to Jaime Shipley, Jaime.shipley@ky.gov

Lessons Learned

We are currently looking for lessons learned to share across the Commonwealth.

Please email your lessons learned to Jaime Shipley, Jaime.shipley@ky.gov